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### The Octofoil, May/June 1969

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

Weehawken, N. J. 07087-412 Gregory Ave.

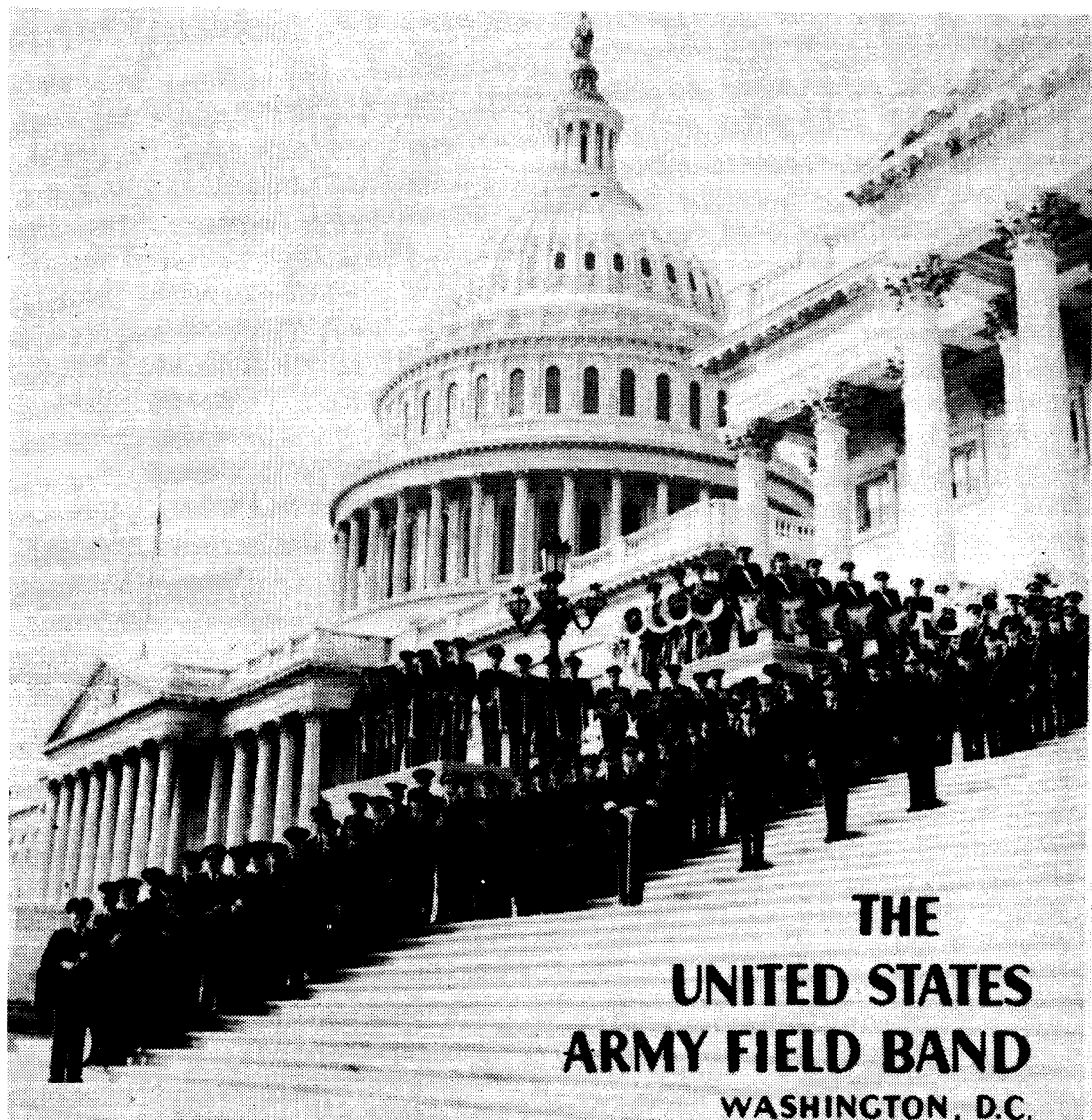
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$4.00 per year - \$1.50  
will be earmarked to pay for The Octofoil.

Volume XXIV - Number 3

May: June 1969

## Reserve A Room Or Bring A Tent



THE  
UNITED STATES  
ARMY FIELD BAND  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The U. S. Army Field Band is shown on the steps of the Capitol. These men will play for the Ninth Division Association at the annual Reunion in Pittsburgh, Pa.

This year when the "Old Reliables" step off for their march to the memorial service they will be led by one of the finest military bands in the world - The U. S. Army Field Band. This band, under the direction of Major Hal J. Gibson, is internationally famous. It is the official touring representative of The Department of the Army, and has appeared in all 50 states and has toured in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Europe, and the Far East. The band has marched in five Presidential Inaugural parades, escorted the President on special occasions and has played for many visiting heads-of-state.

### CONCERT FRIDAY EVENING

The Field Band's participation in our reunion will not be limited to the parade. On Friday evening the band will give a concert for the members of the Association. The band's concert repertoire is designed to appeal to all audiences, offering classical, semi-classical, and popular selections, choral arrangements, novelty numbers and military marches. The Field Band is composed of the Army's finest soldier-musicians. Many have studied at the country's leading conservatories and schools of music, many have played with major symphonies and leading dance orchestras before entering the service. Their performance on Friday evening promises to be one of the high-lights of the Reunion.

### SOLDIERS' CHORUS

The Soldiers' Chorus, an integral part of the band, will also perform for the "Old Reliables." This group is made up of 20 highly-trained and talented vocalists under the direction of Sergeant Major Gene Coughlin of Detroit Lakes, Mich. These musically-gifted soldiers will sing at the concert and on Saturday evening, at the banquet, they will offer a patriotic program that is guaranteed to make every loyal American's heart beat a little faster.

We are honored to be able to have the Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus perform at our reunion. The youngsters will really enjoy the band, it isn't very often that they have the opportunity of hearing 100 soldier-musicians play the tunes that American soldiers have marched to for years.

### HONORED GUESTS

Our dais will be graced by many notable figures, not the least of whom will be Father Edward Connors, the famous "Green Major." Father Connors will introduce our guest speaker General William C. Westmoreland. Father Ed and the General are old comrades-in-arms. Their friendship goes way back to those days when the Ninth was a green outfit getting its first taste of combat in North Africa. Together they saw the men of the Ninth mature into seasoned soldiers who went on

to defeat the enemy in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, and Germany.

Father Connors has held the rank of Green Major for quite some time, if he doesn't get promoted soon, he will be over age in grade. Perhaps, now that General Westmoreland is Army Chief of Staff he can arrange to have The Good Father presented with an eagle, fledgling of course.

### EXPECT LARGE ATTENDANCE

We have been in touch with the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge and they tell us that the advance registrations are coming in at a good clip. It seems as if all the boys are trying to be in Pittsburgh for the reunion. We have a hunch that this is going to be one of the greatest reunions we have ever had. So if you haven't made up your mind as yet, stop procrastinating, fill out that reservation form and send it off to the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge. You don't want to miss out on all the fun, do you?

1969 Reunion  
July 24-25-26  
Pittsburgh

### PALADY TO HOST THE QM'S

Harry Orenstein tells us that Bill Palady is a real reunion old timer. Bill attended the other Pittsburgh reunion about 20 years ago. He has since attended reunions in Chicago, Springfield, Columbus, Detroit, Fort Bragg, Philadelphia, Washington, Boston and New York. Bill usually starts about a week before the reunions to round up the QM's for the gathering, and also has the latest information about the old gang, whom he has seen on this travels, etc.

Many of Bill's friends will be at Pittsburgh from different sections of the country, and with Bill the congenial host you can be sure that this year's reunion will be another enjoyable one.

## Time To Stake A Claim

During the Alaskan gold rush days many old sourdoughs found a promising spot, set up camp and started to dig for gold. Thinking that squatters-rights protected them they never filed a claim on their bonanza. Later on, much to their chagrin, they found out that some wise guy had rushed into town, filed a claim on their mine and was preparing to reap the harvest that they had sown. When it comes to the title "Old Reliables" the Ninth Division seems to be in the same situation as the old prospectors, we have never filed claim to the title. This fact was brought home to us by a letter from Chick Hennen of the 60th Infantry.

Chick wrote as follows: "For many years I have been noting reference to the 'Old Reliables' in connection with the activities of the 9th Division. In fact the 'Octofoil' of Jan-Feb 1969, contains such reference in the story about General Westmoreland.

### WROTE ARMY DIGEST

It was with considerable confidence, therefore, that I took issue with the editor of the Army Digest for the issue of March 1969, wherein a listing of the Active Army Divisions claimed no designation attributable to the Ninth Infantry Division.

I wrote a letter to the Army Digest saying that I always considered the designation of "Old Reliables" as belonging to the Ninth, I got back a letter that set me straight.

### TITLE NOT CLAIMED

The letter that Chick received came from Major Richard W. Flanagan, Executive Editor of the Army Digest, it clearly set forth the facts pertaining to the situation as follows:

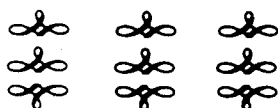
"OCMH records reveal that the 9th Infantry Division has never requested, in accordance with AR 870-5, the designation 'Old Reliables.' Paragraph

10-8 of this regulation outlines procedures for requesting traditional or distinctive designations for TO&E units.

A check by Military History as recent as 14 March reveals that the division has never selected a special designation. However, during World War II it was sometimes referred to as "The Varsity" and as "Hitler's Nemesis."

### TIME FOR ACTION

Apparently Chick has hit upon something that most of us have overlooked. We feel, as he does, that the designation "Old Reliables" should be assigned to the Ninth Infantry Division. Now all we have to do is to get the ball rolling and have the designation made official.



## THE OCTOFOIL

Forms 3579 should be sent to 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087  
OCTOFOIL ASSOCIATE EDITORS Walter O'Keefe & Daniel Quinn

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The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$4.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$4.00 earmarked for six issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J., of any change in address.  
Published six times yearly, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, March-April, May-June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.  
An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively of means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."  
Copy must be received on or before the 10th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th. Photographs must be received on or before the 5th day of publication month.  
Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

May - June 1969
Volume XXIV
Number 3

## REQUEST FOR HISTORY

During World War II many brave men died while serving with the Ninth Infantry Division. The loved ones they left behind treasure the memory of their brave sons or brothers, and they are still interested in learning more about the unit in which their beloved relative served.

Recently Dan Quinn received a letter from Mr. T. W. Thornton of Jacksonville, Fla. Mr. Thornton wrote as follows, "Your name was given to me by both my congressman and an ex-soldier of the Ninth Division. My brother was in Company C 39th Inf., 9th Infantry Division during the latter part of 1944, and early part of 1945. He was killed in action February 20, 1945.

"My family would like a history of the Division between 1941 and 1946, if there is one. You seem to be the person to turn to for this information and if you know where I can find the history, it will be very much appreciated."

Dan was only too happy to be able to comply with Mr. Thornton's request. The history went off in the next mail. We hope that when Mr. Thornton reads the history of the Ninth Infantry Division he will receive satisfaction from the knowledge that his brother played an important part in the writing of this saga.

## T.V. Star Served With 60th.

We have always known that many Ninth Division men have made it to the top in their chosen professions, but recently we were pleasantly surprised to learn that one of our favorite T.V. stars was an "Old Reliable." Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. star of the television series, "The FBI," is a former member of the 60th Infantry. A short while back he received an award from the Department of the Army and the February 1969 issue of "The Army Reserve Magazine" carried the following story.

Mr. Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., star of the current television series "The FBI," has been awarded the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service for narrating the U. S. Army Reserve film, "Men With A Mission," an Army BIG PICTURE.

In accepting the award from General William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, Mr. Zimbalist said:

"I feel so enormously honored by this citation; I don't deserve it really. It is the greatest privilege one can possibly have to be of some small use in any effort to help our country - particularly in times like these when there is so much being done to tear down the forces of right and any constructive efforts. I truly consider myself extremely lucky to have had this opportunity to contribute in this small way." had this opportunity to contribute in this small way."

"By coincidence Mr. Zimbalist served in one of the great divisions of World War II - the Ninth Infantry Division that I also had the pleasure of serving - and, as a matter of fact, he served in the 60th Inf., the organization I commanded after Mr. Zimbalist had been wounded in action and evacuated."

## NOTABLES ATTEND AWARD

Efrem Zimbalist, Sr., the renowned concert violinist who recently retired as head of the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, Pa., flew in for the ceremony as did Efrem III, a second lieutenant now on active duty at Ft. Benning, Ga. Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, also attended the award ceremony.

Second Lieutenant, Efrem Zimbalist, III, received his insignia of rank from his father when he was commissioned from Harvard College ROTC last summer. A military intelligence officer, he is now assigned to Ft. Holabird, Md., having completed his basic course at Ft. Benning, Ga.

The article was accompanied by a photograph that showed Gen. Westmoreland presenting the award to Mr. Zimbalist while Mr. J. Edgar Hoover looked on.

Our thanks go to Steve Grey of Arlington, Va. who brought the above item to our attention. Steve sent us a copy of "The Army Reserve Magazine" in which the article appeared. It is this type of assistance that helps us put out an "Octofoil" that is both interesting and informative.

1969 Reunion  
July 24-25-26

## Program For 1969 Reunion

Thursday - July 24th  
Registration ..... All Day  
Golf Tournament ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Board of Governors Meeting ..... 5:00 P.M.  
Welcoming Reception Party ..... 8:00 to 12:00 P.M.  
To be held outdoors-weather permitting

Friday - July 25th  
Registration ..... All Day  
Business and Committee Meetings .... 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon  
Ladies Meeting and Social ..... 1:00 P.M.  
General Business Meeting ..... 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
Board of Governors Meeting ..... 4:00 P.M.  
Teen-agers Party ..... To be announced  
U. S. Army Field Band Concert ..... 7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.  
Informal Dance ..... 9:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.

Saturday - July 26th  
Registrations ..... All Day  
Parade and Memorial Services ..... 10:30 A.M.  
Boat ride ..... 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M.  
R and R ..... 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.  
Banquet (dress informal) ..... 7:00 P.M. to .....

Chairman ..... Dan Quinn  
Co-Chairman ..... Bob Buck  
Treasurer ..... Walter O'Keefe

Registration ..... Chairman - George Kopac  
Registration will be open during the entire reunion.  
A committee will be on hand to greet the early arrivals on Wednesday. The names of those registered will be set up so that other members may look up their old pals, room number etc.  
Strip tickets-\$16.00 for adults and \$11.00 for children

Golf ..... Chairman - Paul Leschak  
Any members wishing to wack away at the little ball should contact Paul Leschak early on Thursday morning, July 24th. Meet him in the lobby in time for Tee off time at the Cherry Hill Country Club at 9:30 A.M.

Receptions ..... Chairman - Bob Mason  
Thursday evening, July 24th. Welcoming Reception Party - to be held outdoors in garden surrounding the hotel (weather permitting) with a strolling trio led by Baron Elliot. Free beer "old beer garden" style.  
Friday afternoon, July 25th, the Ladies will have a brief business meeting and then a social and show.  
Friday evening for the young folks a swim party in the Hotel Pool.  
Friday, July 25th, 7:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Army Field Band Concert, followed by an Informal Dance till 1:00 A.M.  
Saturday, July 26th, Memorial Services in the morning followed by a three hour boat ride down the Ohio River.  
7:00 P.M. Banquet with guest speaker General William C. Westmoreland. It will be the first opportunity the Ninth Infantry Division Association members will have to welcome home our "own" Westy.

Because of limited space the story by Bill Kreye - "The Pawns of War" was omitted from this issue but will be continued in the next issue.

Taps  
Sounded

Dick Wilson of the Philly-Delaware Chapter wrote to us with the sad news that William "Babe" Lux had passed away on May 25th. Bill lived in Wilmington, Delaware and was a good member of that Chapter. He served with the 60th Infantry Anti-tank unit while with the Ninth. To his family we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

## ARMY TO RETIRE

## SERIAL NUMBERS

On July 1, 1969 the familiar Military Service Number will become part of history. The Social Security Account Number will replace all service numbers for members of the active, retired and Reserve components. Beginning on this date no additional service numbers will be issued. New personnel will use the Social Security Account Number only.

The Social Security Account Number has no prefix or suffix. It, therefore, will no longer indicate officer, enlisted man, sex, active, Reserve component or method of entry as it does now.

Your Account Number will be your single identifier for use by the Federal Government.

It was not until Feb. 28, 1918 that the first service number was issued to an enlisted man. Master Sergeant Arthur B. Breaun holds the unique distinction of receiving ASN 1.

Officers did not receive numbers until June 1921. General Pershing, who was then Chief of Staff, received 0-1.

Of course, there remains one final distinction - the individuals who receive those last service numbers on June 30, 1969.

## TWO OLD RELIABLES

In presenting the award Gen. Westmoreland said the film Mr. Zimbalist narrated "has proven to be very popular and a number of stations that did not previously use the material of the BIG PICTURE have chosen to show... "Men With A Mission."

"This is not the first time that Mr. Zimbalist has served the United States Army. In World War II he served in uniform for five years. He came into service in 1941; he attended Officer Candidate School and received his commission in 1943; he served in Europe in two campaigns and was wounded in action. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASS'N.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, Natl. Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.,  
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Enclosed please find 1969 dues for:

Name ..... Serial No. ....

Street Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

I was a member of:

Battery .....; Company .....; Regiment ..... 9th Div.

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year ..... \$ 4.00 ☐

Three-Year Member ..... \$11.00 ☐

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ..... \$50.00 ☐

Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ..... ☐

Octofoil Automobile License Disc ..... \$ .50 ☐

Decals 25c; (5) five for ..... \$ 1.00 ☐

"Eight Stars to Victory" ..... \$ 2.00 ☐

(Pictorial History of 9th Division in action.)

Ladies' Auxiliary Member ..... \$ 1.50 ☐

Combat Route Map ..... \$ .50 ☐

60th Infantry History ..... \$ .50 ☐

Please give credit to the following Chapter:

Philly-Delaware Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐

Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐

New England ☐ Michigan ☐

Ohio ☐ Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐



## THE OCTOFOIL COMES OF AGE IN WORLD WAR II (By Maj. Gen. G. B. Barth (Ret) formerly C/S 9th Inf. Div.)

Continued From Mar-April Issue

*Editor's Note — During World War II General Barth served as C/S of the Ninth Infantry Division. His many months in combat taught him that it takes more than good equipment and plentiful supplies to make a great Division.*

*To become great a division must have within its ranks men who are dedicated. Both the men who give the orders and the men who follow those orders must be willing to put the Division's welfare above their own. General Barth believes that the Ninth Infantry Division has such men. He has written the following story about some of the men who made the Ninth Division great.*

The German high command, worried by the ease with which the 1st Div. had driven the Italian force back to positions on Hill mass 369 and by the capture of Maknassy, sent small German units to bolster the Italian troops along Hill 369 and released the 10th German Panzer Div. to the El Guettar front for an all-out counter attack towards Gafsa. This attack was made on 23rd March two hours before daylight. At first the enemy attack went well. Appearing out of the mist at close range when daylight came, the tanks overran the positions of the 32nd and 5th Field Artillery Battalions. The artillery fought for their guns and hand to hand with accompanying German infantry. After an advance of about ten miles the tank advance was stopped by concerted action of the 1st Division. The 601st and 899th T. D. Bns. knocked out 32 tanks while mine fields accounted for eight more. The 10th Panzers withdrew out of small arms range and reorganized for another try. At 1600 the second attack came. By then all our artillery, tank destroyers and especially the infantry were ready. After a fight of about two hours the enemy broke, mainly due to our artillery fire and intense small arms fire on German infantry accompanying the tanks. By dark the tanks that weren't immobilized, withdrew. The defense had been steadfast and often heroic! In the first attack, Col. Herschel Baker's 601st Tank Destroyer Bn. lost 24 of its 36 guns. This battalion was equipped with paper-thin half tracks mounting World War I French 75 guns. They were unarmored and going against modern Panther IVs and Vs was a suicide mission. Nineteen jeeps ran the gauntlet of German fire just before the second attack for a resupply of small arms ammunition. All but six made it back in time for the infantry to get resupplied and drive off the German infantry in the evening attack.

By March 24th the Maknassy Pass had been captured. (Our 60th Regt. Combat Team had been attached to the 1st Armored Division and was not present with the 9th Inf. Div. at El Guettar.) The troops were exhausted and the attack was given up. Part of the tanks (Benson's Force) were shifted to the El Guettar battle area.

The Mareth Line Battle by the British Eighth Army opened on March 20th with a frontal attack on the main position. After two days of heavy fighting, the British 30th Corps was stopped. The New Zealand Corps had already started its long swing around through the desert, outflanking the right of the prepared defenses of the Mareth Line. General Montgomery called off the costly attack of the 30th Corps and sent the Xth British Corps, consisting of three armored divisions, to follow the New Zealand Corps in trace. By 24 March the New Zealand Corps was closing up way behind the Mareth position. It was followed by the Xth Corps and the Mareth line was definitely turned. German and Italian troops began withdrawing early on 24 March. The New

Zealanders attacked on 25 Mar. driving into the enemy flank and rear. After defeating the 15th Panzer Div., it drove forward, capturing Gabes on 28th March. The Br. 30th Corps now left the Mareth position, which was now empty and moved north to exploit the gains of the New Zealand Corps.

On 26 March after sharp German thrusts on the right of their over-extended line, the 1st Division decided to give up the vital observation on hill 772. That night the Rangers moved to a position on the lower slope of Djebel Berda (Hill 772) to protect the right of the 1st Div. The enemy immediately occupied Hill 772.

### The Battle of El Guettar (28 March - 7 April)

On 27 March the 47th Inf. completed relief of 1st Inf. Div. units to the right of the Gafsa-Gabes road and completed daylight reconnaissance. The 39th Infantry (less 2 battalions) went into position to the right of the 47th Inf. with the initial mission of re-occupying Hill 772 on Djebel Berda. Two battalions of the 39th Inf. were placed behind the 47th Inf. in division reserve. One of these battalions was motorized.

The 9th Div. Artillery staff reconnoitered the "goose egg" assigned in the II Corps field order for the emplacement of its battalions. It discovered that half of the area was in an old Italian mine field and the other half on low ground that was soggy, due to recent rains, and therefore impassable to wheeled vehicles. Gen. Irwin reported back, stating that a new area had been chosen farther back and that the artillery would be in with registration of batteries completed before dark. Lt. Col. Sundin was working on the division field order. I told him to have it in by noon for Gen. Eddy's approval. He was back from the hospital. The rest had helped him and his leg was much improved. He approved the division field order and it was distributed that afternoon. After getting things started on the morning of 27 March, I had gone to the 1st Inf. Div. Command Post, located in the same Oasis near us, and had conferred with Col. Stanhope Mason, Chief of Staff of the 1st Division. Both of the generals were out on reconnaissance so Mason and I went along the Gafsa-Gabes road to the junction point of the sectors of the 1st and 9th Divs. We had two concerns; first the need for close plans for mutual support of units of different divisions along the common boundary, since this is usually a point of weakness in the defense and; second, the ability to re-occupy Hill 772. We both doubted this second concern.

The II Corps attack was due for failure from the start! The first day's fight showed very clearly what we were up against. The 9th had never fought as a division before. From the division level down to the lowest echelon we were terribly green and had to learn our jobs the hard way. I won't attempt to describe the day to day operations in detail. For those who fought at El Guettar it was ten days of frustration and

discouragement; good men being killed and wounded for no visible gain. Our mission was the capture of the part of Hill 369 within our zone of attack. The enemy positions were dug into the rock, well concealed and difficult to get at. For ten days we attacked doggedly but never were able to take Hill 369. It was said of Gen. Grant in the American Civil War that he made every mistake known to warfare but that he never made the same one twice. The same could be said of the 9th Div. at El Guettar. We became battle-wise but at a terrible cost in casualties. The un-sung heroes of El Guettar were the hundreds of American G. I.s who attacked day after day without success; licked their wounds, reorganized, and attacked again the next day!

On 28 March the 47th Inf. attacked with two battalions. Soon a report came back that their part of Hill 369 had been captured. I passed this information back to II Corps. I later checked with our own artillery and found that the initial report was wrong; the 47th was not on Hill 369 (The Corps objective) but had captured a lower ridge a short way to our front, called Hill 290. Also, the enemy still held high ground on the tip of Hill 290 astride the Gafsa-Gabes Road. I got through to Gen. Gaffey, Chief of Staff of II Corps, and corrected the faulty report. Never again did I ever pass on a report to higher headquarters without first verifying it! The 39th Infantry attacked Hill 772 with one battalion—that's all they had, since the other two battalions were in division reserve. The 39th battalion was stopped cold. The 2nd Battalion of the 47th Inf. attacking Djebel Lettouchi, was ambushed, losing all of the leading E Company. The battalion commander, part of the headquarters group of the 2nd Battalion, including several key staff officers. All were captured and the battalion was left without leadership to continue the advance. The 1st Bn. 39th Inf. advancing behind the 2nd Battalion of the 47th Infantry, mingled with the remnants of this battalion, lost direction and ended up attacking Hill 772 from the rear. They were out of contact with the Division for over twenty four hours. The 47th Infantry, besides losing E Company, lost all three battalion commanders in the first day's fight; two being wounded and one captured.

After dark on 28 March the last reserve of the Division, a battalion of the 39th Inf., was sent, motorized, to attack the enemy still holding the tip of Hill 290. The truck convoy, due to faulty security measures, was ambushed by fire from Hill 290 while still entrucked. A number of men, including the battalion commander, were captured. The bulk of the battalion retreated in disorder while a group held out for two days but out of contact with the Division. Remnants of this force reached our lines two days later.

Thus, at the end of the first day's fight, the 9th Inf. Div. was in serious trouble. Both regiments had been badly mauled. All of the Division reserves had been committed. Many leaders had been lost and both regiments required reorganization before continuing the attack. Gen. Eddy realized that the first order of business was the early capture of Djebel Berda, since its peak (Hill 772), on our right flank gave the enemy perfect observation of our entire operation. He, therefore, ordered the 39th Inf. (less one Battalion in reserve) to continue to attack on Hill 772. This meant that the 47th Infantry, alone, must take over the Division's mission - the capture of Hill 369 in its zone of action!

Col. Randle had trained his regiment for almost two years. At the Safi landing it proved to be well disciplined and steady

under fire. Col. Randle quickly reorganized his regiment after the difficulties of the first day's action. His quiet, forceful, leadership steadied the whole regiment. It took heavy casualties but fought on even though its attacks did not succeed. At the end of the El Guettar fight Col. Randle received the D.S.C. and was recommended for promotion to Brigadier General. He and his regiment were our greatest strength at El Guettar!

On 30th March Benson's tank force attacked towards Hill 369 without infantry support. It was stopped with the loss of five tanks. The next day it advanced again but was thrown back by a counter attack by the 21st Panzer Div. Benson made some gains and held them until he was relieved by a unit of Armored Infantry the next afternoon. Benson's force lost a total of thirteen tanks and two tank destroyers. Gen. Alexander of Hq. 18th Army Group ordered the tanks withdrawn and that in the next attack the infantry would lead with the tanks following and support by fire. This attack was made on 5 April. Enemy fighter planes dominated the air over the 2nd Corps front from 28 Mar. to the end of the campaign in southern Tunisia. Anything that moved, including single vehicles, brought the Stukas down to attack.

From 2 April to 6 April the grinding attacks of the 1st Inf. Div. went on. The 47th Inf. pushed on, attacking towards Hill 369 each day, only to be thrown back. The 39th Inf. was fully engaged in trying, without success, to take the crest of Hill 772. American armored units now followed the infantry assaults. From 2 April on there was considerable movement on and behind the enemy position. At first it was thought that this meant a possible counter-attack but, by 5 April, it was evident that the two Panzer Divisions and other motorized forces were withdrawing and following the retreating German Army, closely followed by the victorious British 8th Army. Gabes had been captured by the New Zealand Corps on 29 March. The Mareth line had been given up and the entire

enemy force was in headlong retreat. By 5 April, the British Xth and XXXth Corps were preparing to attack the enemy covering force west of Sfax. The main force of retreating Germans and Italians were far to the north near Enfidaville.

On 6 April our final attack jumped off. Only delaying tactics were used by the small covering force remaining on Hill 369. Our advance had been steady; Benson's Tanks were pushed ahead to the right of Hill 369. The next morning the enemy was gone. — The agony of El Guettar was over! Patrols from Benson's force met patrols from the 11th Hussars of the British Eighth Army near Sebkret en Noual. The British and the Americans had met.

The afternoon of 7 April the 9th Inf. Div. loaded into trucks and began the move back to Bou Chebka, where we were to concentrate for the movement across the British supply routes to positions on the north flank of the British First Army. The American II Corps with four divisions, the 1st Inf. Div., 1st Armored Div., 9th Inf. Div. and 34th Inf. Div. with the Corps Franc D'Afrique and the 91st Recon. Squadron would take part in the Northern Tunisian Campaign. We would be directly under command of Gen. Alexander who commanded 28th Army Group. The other commands of 18th Army group would be the British First and Eighth Armies, and the French XIX Corps.

Gen. Patton left at once for HQ. I Arm. Corps in Algeria. This was the force picked for the invasion of Sicily and would become the Seventh American Army upon landing in Sicily. Gen. Omar Bradley, who had done a wonderful job as Gen. Patton's Deputy in the IIInd Corps, took command of the II Corps. Gen. E. N. Harmon took command of the 1st Armored Division. Gen. Gaffey replaced Gen. Harmon as C.G. of the 2nd Armored Div. in Morocco. This division was to be a part of the 7th Army in the Sicilian campaign.

(continued next issue)

## THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, 901 Graceland St., Des Plaines, Illinois 60018.

JOHN J. CLOUSER  
901 GRACELAND STREET  
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS  
60016

OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

# MAIL CALL

This is a busy time of the year for our National Secretary. Just about now the dues come rolling, the reunion date is drawing nearer, and the paper has to go to press. You can tell he is busy by looking at the mail-bag, it is almost full. Here are a few samples from this month's delivery.

John Saquella A Co. 47th  
Pennsauken, N. Y.  
John sends his regards to all the boys from A Co. He reports that he has been so busy with V.F.W. affairs that he almost forgot to pay his dues.

Dominick Greco 60th F.A.  
Tiltonville, Ohio  
Dom writes that he is getting ready for the reunion in Pittsburgh. He is looking forward to firing off a few salvos with the old gang from the 60th Field.

Earl A. Ike A Co. 47th  
Earl is all het up about the trip to the E.T.O., he has his barracks bag packed and is raring to go. He is anxious to hear from the boys who served with him in A Co. and hopes to meet some of them at the Pittsburgh reunion.

Harold W. Smith 60th Inf.  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Harold informs us that he retired from the Army in 1967 as a Lt. Col. Retirement didn't disrupt his routine too much. He is now a civilian employee with the same command he retired from-doing the same security job he did as a soldier. Although born in Baltimore, he fell in love with Colorado Springs and now calls that beautiful town home. Harold wants to be remembered to all his friends from the 60th Inf.

Father Kines 60th Inf.  
During the past year Father Kines has been plagued by illness; however, he is now feeling better and is enjoying a long rest out Detroit way. He is looking forward to the Pittsburgh reunion and is especially anxious to see and talk to General Westmoreland.

Walter S. Willis C Co. 39th  
Westville, N. J.  
This spring Walt has been kept busy getting his oldest daughter ready for college, nevertheless, he didn't forget to renew his dues for another three years. Walt won't be able to attend the reunion so he asked us to give his regards to Jackson Forsythe if he shows up at Pittsburgh.

Clair M. McKee B Btry 60 F.A.  
McComb, Ohio  
Clair is kept pretty busy these days but he intends to take time out to attend the reunion.

Steve Lelak B Co. 47th  
Venetia, Pa.  
Some fellows don't have to worry about a thing, the little woman takes care of all the details. Steve happens to be one of those lucky fellows, when his dues comes due the better half is right on the ball and sends it in pronto. The Lelaks tell us that they are looking forward to the Pittsburgh reunion.

Frank L. Reese F Co. 60th Inf.  
Davenport, Iowa  
Frank is looking for some assistance in locating a buddie from F Co. 60th Inf. He is looking for the address of Lt. Robert Morton. The Lieutenant joined the company in North Africa and was still serving in the company when Frank left the outfit. If anyone has information pertaining to Lt. Morton send it to the Octofoil and we will pass it along to Frank.

Tony Santa Morena  
Yonker, N. Y.  
Tony wants to hear more about the trip to the E.T.O. He wants to know if Sicily is included in the itinerary.

Robert L. Smith G Co. 39th  
Bellevue, Ohio  
Bob has been out beating the bushes for G Co. men and he has been having a lot of luck. So far he has contacted ten former members of the company and they are all going to attend the reunion. Bob would make a good recruiting Sergeant.

Edward Hopkins  
Metuchen, N. J.  
Ed changed his address and he dropped us a line to apprise us of the fact. After all these years he has finally made Hollywood- Hollywood Ave., Metuchen that is. Hoppy reports that he is still on the firing line at the Franklin Township School. He should be due for rotation soon.

Rex Ford 39th Inf. H Co.  
Portsmouth, Va.  
Rex writes he hopes he can attend the reunion in Pittsburgh and recently drove from Ashville, North Carolina and it sure brought back memories of 1941-42. He tried to locate the Armory in Salisbury, N. C. but didn't have the time. This is where H Co. 39th went the day War was declared-December 1941.

Charles Neal 9th Recon Trps.  
Madison, Tenn.

"I hope to make the reunion in Pittsburgh this year and am looking forward to meeting some of my buddies from the 9th Rcn Trp., as well as all the men of the Ninth.  
"Had a wonderful time in Detroit last year and I think Bob Mason is doing a wonderful job this year (with the publicity) and know that the selection of Chatham Center will be lots of fun."

Bill Kreye's story "Pawns of War" has struck a responsive chord in the memories of many members of Paddy Flint's old outfit. The Anywhere, Anytime, Anyhow, Bar Nothing boys have been writing to the Octofoil telling of the memories that the story brought back.

Nick Roberts writes that he was 1st. Bn. Supply Officer, and recalls very well the time when the British Tank Commander gave him 15 minutes to clear his supply dump, Nick recalls that many bed-rolls were left behind that day.

Bill Maloney started reading the story in the Jan-Feb 1969 issue and has requested prior issues so that he can read the complete story.

Scotty Hirst joined G Co. of the 60th Inf. after D Day but that doesn't mean that he spent that historic day in a replacement depot. No sir, before he joined the Ninth, Scotty served with a unit that made the initial landing.

Scotty writes that he will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of D Day on the very same beach where he landed on June 6, 1944. He will be the guest of the National Guard Association of The United States at the unveiling of their monument at the beach edge by Vierville-Sur-Mer.

While in Normandy, he will be the guest of M. Lion, the Mayor of Isigny; he also will visit with a long time correspondent of his - M. Michael Hardelay, the Mayor of Vierville-Sur-Mer. Scotty's Normandy CP will be in the Hotel Du Casino.

Due to his departure for Normandy, Scotty's last letter had to be brief; however, he did take time to say that one of his most treasured mementoes is an Association membership card signed by General Smythe in 1945 at Ingolstadt, Germany.

When he returns from Normandy we hope that Scotty will give us a first-hand account of the events that took place during the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of D Day.

Wilton Taylor has a sharp eye for anything that pertains to the 9th Infantry Division. He sent us a picture taken from the August 1965 issue of The National Geographic Magazine.

The picture shows Prime Minister Churchill together with Generals Eisenhower and Bradley test firing the American carbine. It was taken at a 9th Infantry Division camp in England. Several officers appear in the background, they are no doubt, from the 9th Division but we were unable to identify them.

The original picture is in the files at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas.

## And Away We Go

The response for our proposed trip to the E.T.O. in 1970 by the men of the Ninth and their families has been tremendous. The decision has been made. The 9th Inf. Division Assoc. will embark on July 26, 1970 for movement to their overseas staging area, in London, England. Objective: A sentimental drive through Europe for two weeks.

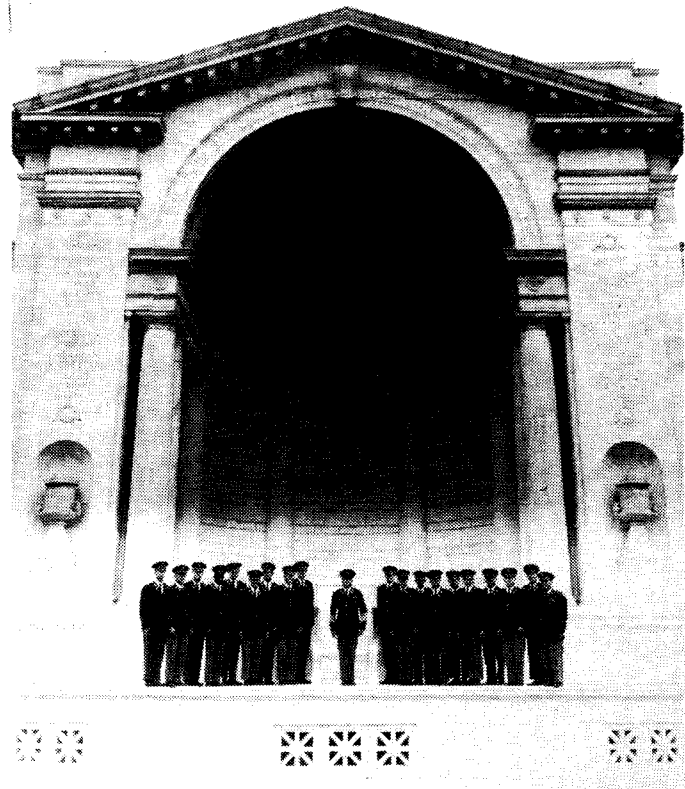
Yes! Our trip is becoming a reality. Just think - the morning after our 25th reunion, we will board our modern jet for a six hour flight to London, and arrive just in time to do some evening pub crawling. Monday we will have extensive sight-seeing, including the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace, and at night a visit to the famous Paladium.

Tuesday will be free so you can visit on your own. Wednesday we will move on to Winchester area, the Division will move on Thursday to Southampton for embarkation on the Cross Channel Steamer for Cherbourg. We will visit the Liberation Museum and other points of interest. On Friday, we will pay a visit to the Beacher St. Mere Eglise, Carentan, St. Lo, and Caen, then on Saturday on to Paris for R. & R. Sunday will be spent with a day of leisure and on Monday we inspect Paris and visit Versailles. We will then hit the trail again, north to Eupen Monschau, Huertgan Forest to Coliege. Thursday, August 6, we will continue on the west side of the Rhine River through Bonn and Bad Godesberg to Remagen, and what remains of the famous Ludendorff Bridge and then on to Koblenz where we will board a Rhine Steamer to Mainz.

The next day, we will again continue on the Autobahn via Wuerzburg Rothenberg a very old medieval walled city and then continue via the Romantic Road over Donauworth to Ingolstadt where we will stop at the birthplace of our association. Then back to the Autobahn and Munich. Saturday, we will have extensive sight-seeing and spend Saturday night in the Hofbrau for a last happy get-together. Sunday, August 9th, you will have the morning at leisure and in the afternoon the Division will redeploy to the U.S.A.

Make your plans now! We will have a finished itinerary by reunion time, and we will accept reservations. Total cost including two meals, hotels, transfers, airfare, and sight-seeing, based on a two in-a-room, will be about \$550.00

For further information see Dan Quinn at the Pittsburgh reunion, or write to him at 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N. J. 07087.



The Soldiers' Chorus will sing at the reunion banquet on Saturday, July 26, 1969.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LADIES' AUXILIARY of the NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Tippie Plunkett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ninth Infantry Division Association Ladies' Auxiliary  
286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206

I would like to become a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Inclosed is check or money order for \$1.50 for 1969 dues. Please mail my membership card to—

Name .....  
Street .....  
City ..... State .....

While attached to the 9th Infantry Division my.....  
(state relationship, whether the Ninth Division man was a husband, father, brother, son, etc.)

was with .....  
give company, regiment, battery, attached unit, etc.)

Make checks or money orders payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association. Mail to Secretary-Treasurer Tippie Plunkett, 286 Zimpfer St., Columbus, Ohio 43206. A 1969 countersigned membership card will be sent immediately.

### NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

ROOM RESERVATIONS  
1969 REUNION, PITTSBURGH, PA.  
Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, at Chatham Center

Please reserve.....Room(s) of the type (x) below:  
Completely Air Conditioned - Color TV

Arrival Date.....A.M.....P.M. Departure Date.....

Name .....

Address .....

City.....State.....Zip Code.....

Singles	\$14.00
Twins	\$18.00
Suites, Parlor, Bedroom, 2 Baths	\$45 - \$50.00
Rollaway Beds	\$4.00

FREE PARKING - FREE ICE - FAMILY PLAN